

Message Text

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S E C R E T LUSAKA 2183

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH, WA

SUBJECT: BRITISH TALKS WITH KAUNDA

1. ROWLAND AND DUFF SUMMARIZED TO ME IMPRESSIONS OF THEIR MEETINGS WITH KAUNDA. THEY WILL BE REPORTING IN DETAIL TO WASHINGTON FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND EXPECT TO SEE ROGERS AND SCHAUFLE IN DAR THIS EVENING. THE FOLLOWING THEREFORE IS A PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF THESE IMPRESSIONS.

2. KAUNDA (AND CHONA) HAD HAD A COUPLE OF DAYS TO DIGEST THE ROGERS/SCHAUFLE PRESENTATION AND WERE THEREFORE MORE FORTHCOMING IN THEIR REACTIONS. IN GENERAL THE BRITISH FOUND THEM LESS ENCOURAGING ON RHODESIA AND MORE SO ON NAMIBIA.

3. ON RHODESIA, KAUNDA EXPRESSED SOME SCEPTICISM ON THE RECORD OF PROGRESS MADE TO DATE. HE HAS BEEN BURNED TWICE BY PUTTING FAITH IN VORSTER'S WILLINGNESS TO APPLY PRESSURE TO RHODESIA AND TAKEN CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL RISKS IN DOING SO. HE IS THEREFORE TAKING A "SHOW ME" ATTITUDE ON PROGRESS IN CHANGING RHODESIA. THIS DOES NOT MEAN TO SAY HE DOES NOT CONTINUE TO GIVE THE INITIATIVES HIS BLESSING NOR THAT HE DOES NOT PROFOUNDLY HOPE THAT THEY WILL RESULT IN SOME-

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THING CONSTRUCTIVE. UNTIL THERE IS MORE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE

OF MOVEMENT, HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT INTEND TO MODIFY HIS SUPPORT FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST SMITH. HIS SCEPTICISM ARISES FROM TWO SOURCES. HE DOES NOT SEE GREAT EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS TO DATE (IN SPITE OF BOTH ROGER AND SCHAUFELLE'S AND ROWLAND AND DUFF'S REPEATED REFERENCE TO THE MUELLER AUGUST 13 STATEMENT) AND HE AND CHONA HAVE BECOME CONVINCED THAT "THE AMERICANS ONLY HAVE TWO MONTHS" IN WHICH TO OBTAIN A SETTLEMENT. KAUNDA WAS APPARENTLY NOT OPTIMISTIC ON HIS INFLUENCE WITH NATIONALIST GROUPS OR THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION AMONG THEM. HE DID SAY THAT PRESIDENT NYERERE, CHAIRMAN OF THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS WOULD SHORTLY CALL A MEETING ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NEED FOR UNIFYING THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER NATIONALIST LEADERS WOULD ALSO BE PRESENT. ROWLAND AND DUFF HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT KAUNDA WAS NOT NOW PLANNING TO REVIEW WITH NATIONALIST GROUPS THE PROGRESS OF THE INITIATIVES AS OUTLINED BY ROGERS/SCHAUFELLE AND AS KAUNDA HAD INDICATED BTWO THEM HE WOULD DO.

4. ON NAMIBIA, KAUNDA WAS MUCH MORE OPTIMISTIC. HE FELT THAT NONE OF THE FOUR RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY SWAPO PRESENTED AN INSURMOUNTABLE BARRIER TO INITIATING TALKS IN GENEVA AND HE THOUGHT THAT THE ROGERS/SCHAUFELLE PROPOSALS CONTAINED A REAL BASIS FOR PROGRESS. OF THE FOUR SWAPO RESERVATIONS -- PARTICIPATION OF THE UN IN GENEVA, ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE AS BILATERAL CONVERSATION BETWEEN SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA, WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARMED FORCES FROM NAMIBIA, AND RELEASE OF PRISONERS -- SWAPO WOULD INSIST ON SOME TANGIBLE PROGRESS ON RELEASE OF PRISONERS SO THAT THEY COULD BE INPEUDED IN THE DELEGATION. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE AND UN PARTICIPATION COULD BE WORKED OUT SOMEHOW AND SWAPO WOULD PROBABLY AGREE TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS UNTIL THE CONFERENCE ITSELF.

5. DEPT PASS ROGERS/SCHAUFELLE.
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